

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 161
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to name the bridge spanning Cedar Creek on U.S. Highway 70 in Mt. Juliet in honor of the late Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates, United States Marine Corps, who was killed while serving in Iraq during the week of September 19, 2004; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, brother and husband, Steven Charles Tyler Cates was a 2001 graduate of Mt. Juliet High School, where he was a member of the marching band, and an Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which Mt. Juliet, Wilson County and the Volunteer State are renowned, Steven Charles Tyler Cates enlisted in the United States Marine Corps just eight days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, in August 2004, Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a machine gunner with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Steven Charles Tyler Cates did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that

ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Steven Charles Tyler Cates's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Juliet City Commission has petitioned this body to name a certain bridge on U.S. Highway 70 in that fair city to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage and commitment to duty of the late Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates, United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning Cedar Creek on U.S. Highway 70 in the City of Mt. Juliet, Wilson County is hereby designated as the "Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates, United States Marine Corps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge spanning Cedar Creek on U.S. Highway 70 in the City of Mt. Juliet, Wilson County as the "Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the

provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.